

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing method performed by a server for providing data to a terminal via a network, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

a reception step of receiving a request for data loading from the terminal;

a completion discrimination step of discriminating, in response to the request for data loading, whether a generation of requested data has completed or is in progress ~~of being generated~~;

a first transmission step of transmitting to the terminal the requested data if the generation thereof has completed;

a prediction step of predicting an end time of the generation of the requested data if the generation thereof is in progress; and

a second transmission step of transmitting the predicted end time to the terminal during the generation of the requested data ~~the predicted end time together with display information indicating that~~ if the data generation of the requested data is in progress.

2. (Previously Presented) A data processing method according to claim 1, wherein said prediction step predicts the end time based on the size of the data to be generated.

3. (Previously Presented) A data processing method according to claim 1, wherein said data are result of execution of a predetermined process, and said prediction

step predicts the end time based on the time required for executing said predetermined process.

4. (Currently Amended) A data processing method performed by a terminal for receiving data from a server via a network, the method comprising ~~the steps~~ of:

an issuing step of issuing a request for data loading to the server;

a reception step of receiving from the server in response to the request either the requested data, or a predicted end time for generation of the requested data ~~together with display data indicating that the data generation is in progress;~~

a display step of displaying the requested data or ~~displaying the display data~~ predicted end time received from the server ~~indicating that the data generation is in~~ progress;

a data discriminating step of discriminating whether the received data is the requested data or is the predicted end time ~~for generation of the requested data together with the display data;~~ and

a re-issuing step of, in a case where the received data ~~comprises~~ is the predicted end time for generation of the requested data, re-issuing the request for data loading to the server when the predicted end time is reached.

5. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus for providing data to a terminal from a server via a network, the apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving a request for data loading from the terminal;

completion discrimination means for discriminating, in response to the request for data loading, whether a generation of requested data has completed or is in progress ~~of being generated~~;

first transmission means for transmitting to the terminal the requested data if the generation thereof has completed;

a prediction means for predicting an end time of the generation of the requested data if the generation thereof is in progress; and

second transmission means for transmitting the predicted end time to the terminal during the generation of the requested data ~~the predicted end time together with display information indicating that~~ if the data generation of the requested data is in progress.

6. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said prediction means predicts the end time based on the size of the data to be generated.

7. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said data are result of execution of a predetermined process, and said prediction means predicts the end time based on the time required for executing said predetermined process.

8. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus for receiving data at a terminal from a server via a network, the apparatus comprising:

issuing means for issuing a request for data loading to the server;

a reception means for receiving from the server in response to the request either the requested data, or a predicted end time for generation of the requested data ~~together with display data indicating that the data generation is in progress of being~~ generated;

display means for displaying the requested data or the ~~display data predicted~~ end time received from the server ~~indicating that the data generation is in progress;~~

data discriminating means for discriminating whether the received data is the requested data or is the predicted end time ~~for generation of the requested data together with the display data;~~ and

control means adapted to, in a case where the received data ~~comprises~~ is the predicted end time for generation of the requested data, control said issuing means as to re-issue the request for data loading to the server when the predicted end time is reached.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a data processing program for controlling a server computer to perform data processing for providing data from the server to a terminal via a network, said program comprising ~~codes~~ for causing the computer to perform the steps of:

a reception step of receiving a request for data loading from a terminal;

a completion discrimination step of discriminating, in response to the

request for data loading, whether a generation of requested data has completed or is in progress ~~of being generated~~;

a first transmission step of transmitting to the terminal the requested data if the generation thereof has completed;

a prediction step of predicting an end time of the generation of the requested data if the generation thereof is in progress; and

a second transmission step of transmitting the predicted end time to the terminal during the generation of the requested data ~~the predicted end time together with display information indicating that if the data generation of the requested data is in progress.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a data processing program for controlling a terminal computer to perform data processing for receiving data from a server via a network, said program comprising codes for causing the computer to perform the steps of:

an issuing step of issuing a request for data loading to the server;

a reception step of receiving from the server in response to the request either the requested data, or a predicted end time for generation of the requested data ~~together with display data indicating that the data generation is in progress~~;

a display step of displaying the requested data or the display data predicted end time received from the server ~~indicating that the data generation is in progress~~;

a data discriminating step of discriminating whether the received data is the

requested data or is the predicted end time ~~for generation of the requested data together~~
with the display data; and

a re-issuing step of, in a case where the received data ~~comprises~~ is the
predicted end time for generation of the requested data, re-issuing the request for the data
loading to the server when the predicted end time is reached.